

A Few Techniques To Try

- Involve your audience physically.
- Ask questions.
- Make abstractions and statistics tangible. Use analogies, anecdotes, props.
- Alliteration (Example: “Fuzzy flora and fauna find functioning in freezing weather fairly easy.”).
- Props (Examples: Dress up as a musher; bring pelts and skulls; use local features...).
- Relate through humor.
- Repetition.
- Comparisons and contrasts.
- Charm bracelets (one “bead” or small item for each of several concepts and which each audience member gets to take home with them). After the program, audience members should be able to remember each of your main points by looking at each “bead.”
- Poetry.
- Music.
- Groupings of 3 or 4. People remember a long series of facts or ideas better if they are grouped (in the same way that it is easier to remember your social security number by remembering the first three digits as a unit, the second two as a unit, etc.)
- Have action or vocalization for the audience to do every time a particular word or gesture is used.
- Personalize your topic, even if all of your knowledge about it is 2nd hand: childhood memory, first encounter with Denali or one of Denali’s animals, sharing your original misconceptions about your topic, etc.
- Storytelling: Made up, children’s, traditional, historical.
- Silence.